

Renaissance to Modern

Numismagram Newsletter #121 (V/2024)



This month's first upload features a little bit of everything, with medals reaching from the early days of medallic art all the way up to the 21st century, with a healthy dose of interesting and exotic things in between. Starting with the earliest, we have this iconic type—an early mid-17th century aftercast of the classic Andrea Doria rendition by Leone Leoni...



Clearly linking the style of Ancient Rome with the refinement of the Renaissance, it features the Genoese leader in a powerful and impressive nature.

Fast-forwarding nearly four centuries, we have this exceptional portrait type from the Jewish American Hall of Fame series, celebrating the famous actress-inventor, Hedy Lamarr...



Issued in 2018 and from a paltry output in gilt silver of just 30 examples, this type was designed by Eugene daub, and features the starlet of the silver screen in an act of contemplation—possibly pondering what would be her contribution to technology in the form of a frequency-hopping system.

Some other fairly modern works of medallic art come from Great Britain from the 1970's and '80's, like this free-standing hefty piece that certainly blends the lines between medal and sculpture...



Designed for the 1989 issue by the British Art Medal Society, this “Sisyphus” type was created by Jane McAdam, who studied and worked extensively in Italy. Recounting the mythological character who was tormented to push the same boulder up a hill, only to repeat the task over and over again, it stands freely upon its base, at least giving some respite from the endless work.

Similarly, another issue from the early 1970’s touches upon aspects of classical mythology...while also being inspired by Genesis—not the first book of the Bible, but rather the English prog rock band...



Channeling the song “The Fountain of Salmacis,” it recounts the myth of Hermaphroditus, featuring the two nude characters on the obverse and reverse. An incredibly rare piece, it was purchased by the previous owner directly from the artist at the time of its manufacture.



For those that enjoy colorful toners, there are these rather iridescent marvels—a late WWI-era silver medal for Nikolaus Graf zu Dohna-Schlodien, a celebrated naval adjutant...



...and a resounding aviation-themed medal from 1928 honoring the Graf von Zeppelin and Dr. Hugo Eckener...



The last medal in this upload's newsletter is one that celebrates a different work of art. Issued for the Crystal Palace Company in London, this award medal, *engraved and awarded in 1891*, was presented to Walter MacEwen for a painting that he submitted for judging...



Now residing in the Cleveland Museum of Art, MacEwen's painting, entitled *The Ghost Story*, (though appearing on the medal as *A Ghost Story*) won numerous awards and accolades following its creation in 1887. Award medals are always an interesting aspect in collecting medals, as they form a tangible connection to the event and awardee. In this instance, not only is the event and awardee known, but also the reason for winning the prize. As such, a tremendous piece of Americana.

For all of this upload's new items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art at the top of this newsletter. We'll be back again at the middle of the month on 15 May with another great mix of art and historical medals.

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